contents of the situation-optimized dictionary dynamically.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on March 10, 2003, claims 1-4 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,005,498) ("Yang") in view of Matsushita (JP App. No. Hei 9 (1995)-129572 A) ("Matsushita"); and claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang and Matsushita in view of Canon (JP App. No. Hei 9 (1997)-6771 A) ("Canon") and Bishop (U.S. Patent No. 5,829,023) ("Bishop"). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-9 are pending in the subject application, of which claims 1, 8, and 9 are independent. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-9 are amended and claims 3, 4, and 6 are canceled. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. A Version With Markings To Show Changes Made to the amended claims is included herewith.

Information Disclosure Statements:

The Examiner is correct in assuming (in item 1, on page 2 of the Office Action) that the Applicant has filed only three Information Disclosure Statements thus far. Specifically, the Applicant has filed an IDS on February 28, 2000, November 13, 2002, and February 11, 2003.

Claim Rejections:

In Yang and Matsushita, a plurality of field dictionaries are previously provided, and the number of use of each field dictionary is updated to put the field dictionaries in descending order of the number of use, whereby the input precision of character strings is enhanced.

In contrast, claims 1, 8, and 9 of the subject application recite "updating the contents of the situation-optimized dictionary dynamically."

According to the present invention, as described on page 14, line 11 to page 15, line 1, every time a character string is input, a situation-optimized dictionary is updated in accordance with an input situation to enhance the input precision, and even in the case of a small terminal whose physical capacity is limited, the determination precision in the input of a character string can be kept high. Neither Yang nor Matsushita, taken alone or in combination, disclose or

suggest the same.

Therefore, claims 1, 8, and 9 of the subject application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references. In addition, dependent claims 2, 5, and 7 of the subject application are allowable based on their dependency from claim 1.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested. Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters. If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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<u>VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE</u>

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 3, 4, and 6.

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 5, and 7-9. The remaining claims are reprinted, as a convenience to the Examiner, as they presently stand before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

1.   (ONCE AMENDED) A device for entering a character string comprising:

an input part for entering a character string;

an input situation acquiring part for acquiring a situation for entering a character string;

a situation control part for affirming a dictionary used for generating a candidate character string or a part of such a dictionary in accordance with a situation acquired with the input situation acquiring part and designating it as a situation–optimized dictionary;

a candidate character string generation part for generating and outputting an output candidate character string that is optimal for the situation in response to a character string that is entered with the input part, using the situation–optimized dictionary designated by the situation control part;

a candidate character string affirmation processing part for affirming the outputted candidate character string; and

an affirmed character string storing part for storing a character string that has been affirmed with the affirmation processing part in the situation–optimized dictionary designated by the situation control part<u>, and updating the contents of the situation-optimized dictionary dynamically</u>.

2.   (ONCE AMENDED) The device for entering a character string according to Claim 1, wherein situations acquired by the input situation acquiring part comprise at least one information selected from the group consisting of

information relating to a character string processing device to which the output candidate character string is given;

information relating to a text that the character string processing device, to which the output candidate character string is given, can output;

information relating to a position in a text that the character string processing device, to which the output candidate character string is given, can output;

information relating to [a processing mode with which a character string that has been given to the character string processing device is processed] <u>a user inputting the character string</u>.

3.   (CANCELED)

4.   (CANCELED)

5.   (ONCE AMENDED) The device for entering a character string according to Claim 1, wherein

the affirmed character string storing part stores a storage date of an affirmed character string as a last–access date when storing the affirmed character string;

the date when a character string that is already stored is accessed is used to change the last–access date; and

[after calculating, from the stored last–access date and the current date, a period of time that a character string has not been used, character strings which have not been used for a certain period of time are deleted from the situation–optimized dictionary]

<u>the last-access date is used when the candidate character string generation part generates the output candidate character string</u>.

6.   (CANCELED)

7.   (ONCE AMENDED) The device for entering a character string according to Claim 1, further comprising a situation–optimized dictionary production part for producing a situation–optimized dictionary by [treating] <u>associating</u> character strings that are used in a pre–existing electronic text [in the same manner as affirmed character strings] <u>with information relating to a user creating the electronic text, information relating to a time when the electronic text has been created, and information relating to a character string processing apparatus by which the electronic text has been created</u>.

8.   (ONCE AMENDED) A method for entering a character string comprising:

entering a character string;

acquiring a situation for entering a character string;

affirming a dictionary used for generating a candidate character string or a part of such a dictionary in accordance with an acquired situation designating it as a situation—optimized dictionary;

generating and outputting an output candidate character string that is optimal for a situation in response to an entered character string, using the designated situation—optimized dictionary;

affirming the outputted candidate character string; and

storing an affirmed character string in the situation—optimized dictionary, and updating the contents of the situation-optimized dictionary dynamically.

9.　　(ONCE AMENDED) A computer—readable recording medium storing a program, to be executed on a computer, the program comprising [steps for]:

entering a character string;

acquiring a situation for entering a character string;

affirming a dictionary used for generating a candidate character string or a part of such a dictionary in accordance with an acquired situation designating it as a situation—optimized dictionary;

generating and outputting an output candidate character string that is optimal for a situation in response to an entered character string, using the designated situation—optimized dictionary;

affirming the outputted candidate character string; and

storing an affirmed character string in the situation—optimized dictionary, and updating the contents of the situation-optimized dictionary dynamically.

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